

WORKERS! WRITE HOW THE NRA EFFECTS YOUR SHOP [See Page 2]

WESTERN WORKER

WESTERN · ORGAN · OF · THE · COMMUNIST · PARTY · U · S · A ·
[SECTION OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL]

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Price Five Cents

Strikes Sweep California Fields; 6,500 Already Out

Fight Intervention In Cuba!

C. P. CALLS FOR MASS PROTEST AND SUPPORT TO CUBAN PEOPLE

Warships Sent To Protect Billion and A Half Invested By U. S. Bankers, and To Butcher Revolting Workers, Peasants

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—As soon as it became known that the U. S. imperialist government, through Roosevelt, ordered warships to Cuba, the California District Committee of the Communist Party issued an appeal for protests against this actual intervention, and for solidarity with the Cuban people.

Pointing out that the sending of the three warships is in order to force the Cuban people to accept the U. S. puppet government now instituted, the appeal calls that:

Protests be immediately sent to Roosevelt from all organizations of workers, farmers and intellectuals, demanding withdrawal of all armed forces, and that the Cuban people be left alone to determine the government they want.

The anti-war committees, and branches of the Anti-Imperialist League should arrange mass meetings, and other protest forums, in support of the Cuban workers and peasants.

Also the appeal is addressed to

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PROTEST LYNCH TERROR

A last minute report from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, states the 3 Negroes framed on a charge of attacking a white girl, and to be defended by the I. L. D., were murdered by a mob through frame-up arrangements, while being transferred to another prison.

A reign of terror israging throughout Alabama, and the Scottsboro boys are in danger of being lynched. The International Labor Defense calls for immediate protests to Governor Miller of Alabama, holding him responsible for the murder, and demanding the safe release of the Scottsboro boys.

3000 N. M. COUNTY WORKERS, FARMERS IN HUNGER MARCH

New Mexico Unemployed Win Doubled Relief

ROSWELL, N. M., Aug. 13.—More than three thousand workers and farmers were at the demonstration of the Chaves County Hunger March, Thursday noon, filling Court House Square to overflowing. Delegations from all over the county were present.

Demands for \$3 a week cash relief for man and wife and 75¢ for each child, no evictions, milk and shoes for school children and other demands, were endorsed by the unemployed and farmers assembled, given to the County Welfare Board and by them sent to the governor, who refused to take any action.

As a result of the hunger march, rations given out since have been almost doubled, and the whole countryside is talking about the Communist leadership. At a meeting held Thursday night, after the march, police intimidation was increased. More than fifty armed deputies, with machine guns, were present. They forbade the speakers to speak, but Comrade Fox spoke anyway. One Spanish speaker was arrested but later was released.

U. S. WARSHIP SENT AGAINST CHINA SOVIETS

Alarmed By Great Victory Of Red Army Nearing Seaport

AMOY, China, Aug. 10.—To aid American imperialism in an effort to put down the invading Chinese Red Army in event of an attack on this city, Rear Admiral Taylor, commander-in-chief of the U. S. Asiatic fleet, has ordered the gunboat Fulton to this city. The Fulton, before coming to this seaport, was stationed at Foochow, capital of Fukien province. Amoy is under martial law.

The Red Army, numbering forty thousand, have marched down from Kiangsi Province and defeated the Nationalist armies under Gen. Tsai Ting-Kai, leader of the Sixth Communist Suppression campaign. In a four-day battle in the town of Lien-chang, four battalions of the 19th Route Army were destroyed, with losses of 2000 killed or wounded. The Red Army is reported to be led by the Communist General, Chu Teh. The remainder of the 19th Route Army has retreated, surrendering Lungyen, as the victorious Red Army continued to within striking distance of the seaport of Changchow thirty-five miles west of Amoy.

NRA MEANS HUGE CUT FOR MARE IS. SHIPYARD WORKERS

VALLEJO, Calif., Aug. 14.—Indignation among Mare Island shipyard workers rose to high degree, as following the adoption of the shipbuilding code, in addition to being cut from six-day pay to five, a 15% cut has been slapped on top. This holds for all shipyards in the 12th Naval district.

In preparation for putting through the Roosevelt war program, other measures were taken to still further cut the wages of the workers. Most of the workers have been moved down one class, or turned into helpers, which reduces them still further. For instance, boilermakers, chippers and cokers, formerly in the first class, are now classified as second. Reamers, bolterups and drillers have been turned into helpers, which puts them far below even 3rd class pay.

Finally, the policy of disregarding the so-called seniority rights is followed, and most of those hired are strong young workers, not yet scarred by the speed-up.

This being a government yard serves as an example how the NRA policy should be carried through.

Notice To Party Members, Militant Workers

The San Francisco Chronicle of August 12 (Washington Mercury-Go-Round) reports, "Red Hunt in Offing—The old red-baiting days of A. Mitchell Palmer may be just around the corner. J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Bureau of Investigation, is secretly employing a large number of operators to round up alleged reds in the ranks of labor."

Our Party pointed out many times the necessity of taking precautions, in order to safeguard the organization against "democratic" persecution. We list here a few suggestions to our active members, functionaries and sympathizers:

- (1) Keep your pockets free of all documents, membership books, notes, names and addresses. If necessary to make notation of any kind, make it so that only you yourself can understand what it means. Cultivate the habit of destroying papers no longer needed in your work.
- (2) Do not discuss inner organization questions or decisions with anyone or at any place out of the proper meetings, especially in public places, such as restaurants, street cars, headquarters, etc.
- (3) Be cautious as to whom you give information to.

LUMBER STRIKERS WIN BIG PAY INCREASES, RETURN TO WORK

Jury Votes 9-3 To Free Strikers Arrested

GRAYS HARBOR, Ore., Aug. 9.—On the basis of gains won, a mass meeting of the strikers from logging camps and mills here voted Monday night to return to work. Some of the mills are now on a 6-hour basis, and minimum wages in camps have been raised from 25¢ to 42½¢ an hour. Bushel workers won 9¢ per bushel more in some camps.

In the trial today of 11 pickets arrested at the Harbor Plywood Co. when that mill joined the strike, the jury after an hour and a half brought in 9 for acquittal and three for conviction. Date for the new trial has not been set. More than 150 workers drove from Aberdeen to Montesano for the trial, packing the court room and crowding the street outside. Irvin Goodman, International Labor Defense attorney, defended the strikers. The new National Lumber Workers Union led the strike.

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Fight the Sales Tax!

Now that the California sales tax has been in operation for two weeks we have had a demonstration, so clear that even the most backward among the workers and other people with a small income, can see that it is a scheme to shift the burden of state expenses upon them.

Rolph's veto of the income tax leaves no doubt that the policy of the state government is to exempt the rich from taxation. As a matter of fact the 2½% tax is closer to 7%. The average purchase that working class housewives make is far less than 59 cents. Probably 3 pennies are drawn out of a worker through 15 and 20 cent purchases for every 59 cents spent.

The tax is the same as if the workers wage were cut, and it was quite fitting that it began on the very day when the Blue Eagle Policy, supposedly a symbol of more wages, went into effect. The tax is on top of increases in prices of products most commonly consumed by workers, averaging already at least 20%. As a matter of fact the NRA ballyhoo to date has only served as an excuse for increasing prices, and imposing such taxes.

California is not the only state where such a tax has been levied. Arizona has a "two per cent" tax, and other states either already have or are contemplating such a measure. We see now that although a national sales tax was not passed, during Hoover's regime, it was not abandoned, but is being applied on a state scale instead.

The boss controlled California government, realizing that this measure will meet with the approval of only a few thousand with large incomes who would be hit by an income tax, railroaded through the sales tax.

But does that mean that the question is settled, and it is too late to do anything about it? On the contrary. Now is the time to arouse the mighty movement against it. Now, when the masses are beginning to realize the robbery.

The fight against the sales tax must not be confused with the move of a group of large merchants who have announced that they will initiate a referendum for repeal. They only claim that the measure should have provided for an exact proportional 2½%. A stamp, or some other system making that possible, will satisfy them, and they will continue to collect the "tax for Jimmie."

The fight must take the form of mass movements in all cities, and carried into each neighborhood. Organizations of workers, farmers, housewives, small taxpayers, and even small merchants can unite on this issue. There should be no time lost in arranging mass meetings, and other forms of demonstrations, calling for a special session of the legislature to repeal the tax.

This is part of the struggle against the high cost of living, and goes hand in hand with the chief fight, which is for increases in wages, and against the NRA cuts.

Workers! Farmers! Housewives! Immediate action is necessary!

Demand that only the rich be taxed!

Let the state balance its budget by cutting appropriations for the police, militia and similar strikebreaking agencies!

Let them cut the salaries of state officials to \$3000 per year maximum!

Fight the Sales Tax!

New L.A. Administration Cuts Relief of 500,000

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12.—More than half a million workers getting relief here will be doomed to slow starvation by order of the new superintendent of the County Welfare Bureau, Earl C. Jensen, cutting down direct relief by 30% and reducing work by 50%.

The eighteen locals of the Relief Workers Protective Union with a membership of over 2000 is organizing to fight the proposed order of Jensen, forcing relief workers to slave for \$1.60 for a four-hour day instead of \$3.20 per day, they were receiving. Jensen intends to spread out the R. F. C. work among the starving workers so that they will automatically be taken off the direct relief lists. Despite capitalist press lies of new jobs created by the NRA, the number of unemployed applying for relief is increasing, passing half a million.

A united front mass meeting is called for Saturday, August 19, at 8 p.m., at the Relief Workers Protective Union hall, 741 S. Wall street, to organize the demonstration against the relief cut and to present demands to the County Board of Supervisors, the City Council and the County Welfare Board.

FREE SPEECH CASE WON FOR WORKERS IN LOS ANGELES

Court Grants Right of Workers To Meet; Halts Red Squad

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12.—A great victory for the right of the workers to free speech and assembly was scored here last week when Judge Scheineman awarded damages and costs to Leo Gallagher, Lawrence Ross and Ezra Chase in a suit against ex-Mayor Porter and Hynes' Red Squad. The action was for the police stopping of an election meeting of the Cooperative Center, 2706 Brooklyn avenue, last March.

The decision declared that police interference with meetings is illegal, and as such, sets a precedent that makes no longer necessary the securing of injunctions against the Red Squad before each meeting, and in unmistakable language grants the free right of workers to assemble and discuss their problems.

Filipino Misleaders Try To Prevent United Fight; 1200 Out at Oxnard

Growers Call For Troops; Demands Are 30-35 Cents Per Hour; Agricultural Workers Industrial Union Leads; Calpack Ranches Out

As we go to press reports arrive of a strike wave extending from San Diego as far up as Chicgo. Governor Rolph was asked for troops. Adjutant General Seth Howard advised the districts affected that in the meantime they should use the national guard forces in the districts.

The growers are panic stricken as the huge crops face destruction unless they will submit to the demands of the workers for a wage upon which it is possible to exist.

750 PEAR PICKERS STRIKE; TIE UP SAN JOSE REGION

Workers Picket and Won't Fall For Sheriff's Trick

SAN JOSE, Aug. 14.—Seven hundred and fifty pear pickers came out on strike this morning, effecting 90% on the ranches. A picket line was out for an hour and a half, and it is expected that the rest will be out soon.

The strikers are demanding an hour day, at 30 cents per hour, recognition of the union and ranch committees of the workers. At present the workers are getting 15-20 cents per hour.

The sheriff is mobilizing deputies, and informed the workers that "according to the code they have no right to picket." But the strike leaders informed him that the agricultural workers are not even included in Roosevelt's NRA, much less has any code been adopted that effects them.

The latest from the Oxnard beet strikers is that they are continuing in full solidarity. Adjacent districts are being organized. The bosses so far accede to only three of the nine demands. Three hundred already joined the C. & A. W. I. U.

Today 1,000 strikers including Mexican and Filipinos, paraded in front of the Oxnard police station, in protest of the Sheriff compelling 13 to go to work by force. The chief of police in a demagogic gesture promised to "prefer charges against the sheriff." The scabs were forced to quit.

The Mexican Consul has been thoroughly exposed among the workers, who cheered the C. & A. W. I. U.

From the Chico district came the report that agricultural union leaders were arrested in a desperate attempt to forestall the mass meeting called for Friday, at Gridley. National Guard troops are asked for.

The strike at the Tagus Ranch in Tulare is a complete tie-up and the seab-herders admit that all effective.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 8)

CHICO PEACH CUTTERS FORM AWIU; STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY

Turn Spontaneous Strike Into Organized Action

CHICO, Calif., Aug. 12.—Practically all of the 180 men, women and children in the Bidwell cutting sheds struck here this morning against the wages of 5¢ and 6¢ a box for cutting peaches, and 10¢ an hour for day work. Thirty-one joined the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union on the job.

A spontaneous strike Friday morning was crystallized into organized action at a meeting that night, with more than 100 present. A strike was voted and demands were drawn up for 27½¢ an hour for women and 30¢ an hour for men, on an 8-hour day, 10¢ a box for freestones and 15¢ a box for cling peaches, better sanitary conditions and recognition of the C. & A. W. I. U.

Police called to the sheds were unable to force the determined workers back. This is the first strike here in many years.

500 At Gridley Meet Of Agricultural Workers Union

GRIDLEY, Calif., Aug. 12.—In one of the largest meetings this town has seen, more than 500 agricultural workers attended a mass meeting called by the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union in the city park here last night. Twenty of them joined the union, and all pledged to rally a greater number for the next meeting, this Friday night, August 18.

Alarmed at the huge turnout, the bosses have resorted to setting fires in an effort to turn public sympathy against the union.

The strikers are demanding 35¢ an hour and an 8-hour day and recognition of the union.

Latest news reports that no fields in the two valleys are working. The solidarity of the workers and their militancy is splendid, following two recent mass meetings held by the union. At Carlsbad Tuesday night 82 pickers joined the union.

Stanley Hancock, strike leader, was arrested in Vista early this morning. Bail of \$250 was raised by the International Labor Defense.

Hancock's trial is set for August 17 before Justice D. O. Peet of Vista.

Mass picketing is being carried on, and Tuesday two truckloads of Japanese brought down to scab were turned back by the pickets. The strike was called Monday.

PEACH PICKERS AT TAGUS RANCH OUT ON STRIKE

Owner of Ranch Is Hoover's Brother-in-Law; Worst Slave Driver

FRESNO, Aug. 14.—Seven hundred and fifty came out on strike of 800 employed at the Tagus Ranch. A picket line of 300 was out on Sunday morning.

The workers are demanding 35 cents per hour, 40 hours per week, no forced buying in the company store, to be paid in money, and recognition of the Agricultural Workers Industrial Union. This morning one worker was arrested. The American Legion is being mobilized to break up the meeting called today.

The workers were getting 15 cents an hour, 10 hours per day. They were paid in tokens, which could only be spent at the high priced company stores.

The workers decided to strike at an enthusiastic mass meeting of 400. More than 150 are already in the union. The sheriff's office is used by the boss ranchers for scab herding. The Mexican consul is being exposed among the workers, as he is engaged in scab herding activity in this region.

The owner of the ranch is Ralph Merritt, a brother-in-law of ex-President Hoover, and he is known as the worst slave driver in the industry.

2 UTAH MINES STRIKE AGAIN AS COMPANY BREAKS AGREEMENT

HELPER, Utah, Aug. 14.—The second strike within a week has been forced upon the Mutual miners through violation of the agreement by the company, who despite agreeing to give preference in hiring to miners in camp, brought in five non-union men from outside.

The mine is completely shut down, with hundreds of members of the National Miners Union and the Woman's Auxiliary on the picket lines.



The Ever Ready Label Corporation of New York announces that it is so busy making \$25,000,000 worth of NRA labels and posters that it will not be able to operate under the NRA code for the label making industry.

Young Franklin Roosevelt is all enthused about a bullfight he saw in Madrid. There was more action to it than the bull contests between his old man and his cabinet, and the thing ends when the bull is dead.

U. S. Ambassador Welles approved of Herrera to replace Machado as dictator of Cuba on the ground that "if a man really popular with the people were named the public rejoicing might be so exuberant as to bring disorder and bloodshed." This way it saves American bullets that make the bloodshed.

"Elephants Peril Farms in Africa," the papers tell us—probably to keep our minds off how the G. O. P. elephant periled the farms in America, and how the Party of the Jackass is taking them away with federal farm aid.

"Tinned tripe is now being sold," the papers inform us. That's not news. Hollywood has been shipping out cans of patriotic films for more than a generation.

Who says the legislature of Colorado isn't saving the money of the small taxpayer? They've adopted the lethal gas method of execution, so that it now only costs 90¢ to kill a condemned man.

Says Katherine Felton, of the Frisco Assassinating Charities: "The way to see that people are well-fed is to provide them with actual food, not money with which to buy food." And its better business, too—peddling garbage at high prices.

"Suppose we gave money instead of food. What would happen? The good woman who owes back rent would subsist on tea and crackers and pay her rent."

This way she starves on moldy bread and poisonous canned goods, and gets evicted.

It will be very consoling to the workers wagecut and fired under the NRA to know that since he started a few weeks ago Hugh Johnson has gained several pounds in weight. Like them, he is making sacrifices; he, too, does not eat regularly. Though he is supposed to lunch at noon, sometimes he is an hour or two late.

Have you heard any squawk from the A. F. of L. because the NRA posters don't carry the printers' union label?

FISH CANNERY UNION LAUNCHED IN MONTEREY

Will Fight NRA Low Wage Code

MONTEREY, Calif., Aug. 10.—Beginning with 75 members, a local of the Fishermen's and Cannery Workers Industrial Union is rapidly gaining strength here to combat the proposed code of the cannery and reduction plant (fertilizer) operators. The code would set wages at 27½¢ an hour for women and 30¢ for men. The fishermen and cannery workers are organizing to demand a minimum of 40¢ an hour for all workers.

At present cannerys are hiring boys and girls to do adult work at 12½¢ an hour. The season here is less than six months out of a year. And we only get a few hours of work per week, though we have to stand by day and night many times waiting for the haul to come in.

The fishermen get only \$6 a ton for sardines, which barely pays operating expenses.

The boat owners have a fake union here, whose secretary is former District Attorney Argyll Campbell. They collect "dues" of 25¢ a ton from each member, but have refused to struggle for the interests of the fishermen. Although there are 10 to 12 men on each boat, only the boatowners are allowed a vote.

The Fishermen's and Cannery Workers Industrial Union meets every Sunday at Union Hall, 572 Foam street, New Monterey.

Join DR. KLEIN'S DENTAL SAVING CLUB Half Price on All Work to Members 1306 FILMORE STREET Phone WAI. 5785

Film, Photo League To Show Anti-War Pictures in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, July 28.—The Hollywood branch of the Workers Film and Photo League will show pictures of anti-war demonstrations and activities at churches and organizations, which are supporting the Anti-War Conference of Los Angeles.

A motion was passed at the Saturday Afternoon Discussion Club to permit the Workers Film and Photo League to show working class film once a month at their meetings. The motion was passed unanimously over the objections of one Kirchner, a Socialist.

Any one desiring further information on the work of the League should enquire at 224 S. Spring street, Room 304, Los Angeles.

RELIEF FARM WORKERS IN SANTA BARBARA FIGHT FAKER BOSSSES

Refuse To Go Hungry As Vegetables Rot, and Bosses Take Them

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Aug. 1.—C. C. Hopkins, in charge of relief here, is a former A. F. of L. member. He gave orders that the men working for relief on the county farm could not take any more vegetables home, but must deliver them to the commissary to his little tyrants. When the men asked for squash from a load taken in, they were told to wait till tomorrow, while the tyrants took their pick. They went to Hopkins, who, being a faker, said, "I have nothing to do with it." So all the workers took vegetables, except a few stools. Greves, the farm boss, tried to make us stop but we were too militant. He proved to be a faker, too, who has been talking a lot of A. F. of L. union ballyhoo.

We were told not to take corn but we did. It seems that cows are more important than humans, just like mules were in the army.

Crate after crate sits and rots, row after row goes to seed, and we who raise the vegetables can't take them, but the head foreman can make up boxes for his American Legion friends who have good jobs, and for private paying business.

They are going to find that workers can organize and fight—and how!

—Relief Worker.

MONTEREY ABALONE PACKERS GET WAGE CUT AND SPEEDUP

Workers Make Less Than \$8 A Month

MONTEREY, Calif., Aug. 1.—The workers in the abalone packing sheds of Monterey are getting lower wages, less work and worse working conditions than last year. Each worker gets not more than five hours a day and not more than three or four days a month.

Wages in the trimming shed are 35¢ an hour for men and 30¢ an hour for women; 40¢ and 35¢ an hour in the pounding shed. Last year they were 5¢ an hour higher and four years ago as high as 60¢. These workers, men and women, Japanese, Italian and Spanish, must now supply their own aprons and knives, both of which were formerly supplied by the companies. Suitable knives cost at least \$1.25. Work goes on all day, but the workers are on two five-hour shifts, although some workers wait around for several hours and then get only an hour or two. The bosses this year demand faster work and use pace-setters who are on a monthly rate. At the trimming table the women are packed in so closely together that the slightest slip results in cut hands and fingers.

Race prejudice, fear of the many unemployed waiting for jobs and lack of organization keeps these workers submissive.

—Worker Correspondent.

Arizona Strike Leaders Freed; 500 At Meeting

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 8.—With the close of the melon season in Salt River Valley, County Attorney Renz Jennings moved the dismissal of the riot charges against the five strike leaders, Comrades Sumid, Wilson, Berolla, Luna and Lopez of the Agricultural Workers Union.

The Phoenix Branch of the International Labor Defense and its fighting attorney, Clarence R. Lynch, has put up a militant campaign for these workers' release of the framed charges of "rioting."

Approximately 500 workers gathered last Sunday night at the county court house here to protest these strike leaders' imprisonment.

Protest resolutions were adopted and sent to the County Attorney, Judge and Sheriff's office, as well as to Governor B. B. Moeur.

They are going to find that workers can organize and fight—and how!

—Relief Worker.

Release Militant Worker; Cannot Deport Him

SAN FRANCISCO, July 18.—Luka Kerpan, a Jugoslavian worker, after being held 10 months on Angel Island, for deportation, was released. The immigration authorities could not get papers from Jugoslavia proving that he is a citizen of that Fascist country, where a long prison sentence undoubtedly awaited him. It was impossible to find them since he comes from a section that was once Austria.

Comrade Kerpan was arrested at Mt. View as soon as he got a job there. This was caused by stool pigeons from Rock Springs, Wyo., where he as a coal miner was actively engaged in organizing the workers against the Union Pacific Co., when he wrote letters urging the workers to keep up the fight, as he was forced to leave Rock Springs for his activities.

Comrade Kerpan was a member of United Mine Workers for 16 years and a devoted member of the Communist Party.

Still smarting under the hairbreadth victory between Comrade Babin of San Francisco and all of Los Angeles in a recent sub contest, Los Angeles has become aroused and in one last desperate attempt has challenged all of San Francisco to Western Worker contest. The contest is to be based on the percentage of increased circulation through subscription and sales, and to end midnight, November 6th, to be announced at the November 7th 16th anniversary of the Russian revolution.

To make the contest worthwhile the Western Worker office is offering a Shock Brigade banner to the winner, which will have a Soviet Star with hammer and cycle on a red silk background, trimmed in gold fringed border.

What about it, San Francisco, are you going to let Los Angeles win? Your only answer can be in sales and subs.

Deming, New Mexico, has been added to the long list of bundle orders of the Western Worker. Does your town take a bundle? If

not you should make arrangements at once to get one.

Chular took 100 extra copies for their strike.

Letters have been coming every day stating, "We are going to increase our bundle soon." But so far few of these phrases have been put into action. Who's going to be the first to send a substantial increase instead of promises?

One of the best ways to concretize the "Open Letter" is to increase our sales of Western Workers to the factories. In following this out don't choose too many factories, as this only leads to confusion, select one and be there one certain day a week, at a certain time, and don't whisper, "Western Worker," shout the headlines!

Word just comes from San Jose, "Double our bundle order to 200." This is the way to increase the Western Worker circulation. Let us get a lot of these notices.

Talk about it! Write us about it! Put it in action! "A FACTORY FOR EVERY UNIT!"

Owing to the fact that Syndicalism Repeal Committees in most sections have not submitted their reports on the status of their work, and further plans for extending it, it was impossible to put out the special issue as announced. Shortly we expect to be able to make a definite announcement.

Sales Tax Hits Phoenix Workers And Farmers

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 9.—While the sales tax of 2%, which went into effect July 1st, followed by the luxury tax on July 8, puts the burden of taxation squarely on the already bent backs of the working class, the corporations have gotten out from under. The State Tax Commission announces valuation of property owned by mining, railroad, telephone and telegraph companies has been reduced millions of dollars.

The slash in mine property valuations is \$39,045,040; the reduction for the railroads is \$4,715,613, and for the telephone and telegraph companies \$93,084.

The sales tax is supposed to be 2%, but the way it is scaled it runs as high as 9% for small purchases—which is all most of the workers can make. The luxury tax, which adds 15% to 20% on tobacco purchases, and equally on other so-called luxuries, applies to small-scale—in other words, takes it out of the working class.

The committee called a meeting at which 14 were present, discussed their problems and general meeting of 45 of the entire reservation resulted. At the latter meeting Comrade Parks explained how white workers have kept from starving only by organizing and struggling for relief, and pointed out that only by organization could the Indians get relief.

A strong committee was named to go to the Indian agent and demand relief, and were informed that it would be probably two or three months before anything could be done. As a substitute he suggested they sign up for the C. C. C. camps if necessary are only to protect the billion and half invested there by American bankers, sugar and tobacco interests, and to force the Cuban people to submit to them.

Latest reports from Havana indicate that the battleships were sent really to support the new government, against the revolutionary movement, which is spreading despite the fact that the ABC party leaders have betrayed it, and accepted positions in the U. S. controlled government. The Communist Party is fast winning the masses and leaflets appear everywhere signed by the "Left ABC," calling for a fight against the American imperialist agents.

The misleaders have evidently lost complete control, as mass indignation is becoming expressed in huge demonstrations. In one case, when the former chief of police appeared on the streets, he was immediately shot dead. It was he that organized the secret police that murdered many Communists.

No beats are coming in from the fields, and the factory, which normally employed 600, is now almost at a standstill. The AWIU has issued a call to the factory workers to join the field workers in their strike.

The demands of the strikers is for a 50% increase in wage when working by tonnage in companies; for a minimum wage of 35¢ an hour for general farm and factory work; and an 8-hour day for farm and factory work; and for recognition of the union. In addition the strikers are demanding the elimination of labor contractors and that hiring shall be done through the union, regular Saturday paydays, and that no discrimination be practised against any workers for nationality or for membership in the AWIU or the Filipino Protective Union.

More than 700 of the strikers crowded into the headquarters last night to hear the report of the Strike Committee on the answer of the Beet Growers Ass'n to their demands. The Growers had refused to hear the committee, saying: "We have no time to speak with these Mexican peasants." The meeting voted unanimously to continue the strike until they won. Six labor contractors present signed an agreement with the union not to go back to work, but to stick with the strikers.

The speed-up has become terrific and especially in the lumber manufacture. For example: the Weyerhaeuser mills at Everett, Wash., boasts of a 10% increase in living costs. The minimum wage set forth in the code is even less in real wages than that received by the workers in the forced labor concentration camps—and at best are no better. These workers receive only \$1 a day and board, which amounts to approximately the same as the minimum wage offered in the code. The minimum wage offered in the code is also an expression of the rankdest discrimination against the Negro, Mexican and white workers of the South. This discrimination is covered up with the excuse that the costs of living are not so high in the Southern states. But this is not altogether true, as the standards of living for both the Negro, Mexican as well as the white workers in the South have been systematically forced down below that of the Northern and Western workers.

The code sets as a maximum the number of hours of work not to exceed 48 in the camps—and 40 in the mills—and according to the code.

LIKE C. C. C.'S

The code does not make any provision for further increases in wages to correspond to increases in living costs. The minimum wage set forth in the code is even less in real wages than that received by the workers in the forced labor concentration camps—and at best are no better. These workers receive only \$1 a day and board, which amounts to approximately the same as the minimum wage offered in the code.

SPEED-UP MAINTAINED

The speed-up has become terrific and especially in the lumber manufacture. For example: the Weyerhaeuser mills at Everett, Wash., boasts of a 10% increase in living costs. The minimum wage set forth in the code is even less in real wages than that received by the workers in the forced labor concentration camps—and at best are no better. These workers receive only \$1 a day and board, which amounts to approximately the same as the minimum wage offered in the code.

COMPANY UNION STAYS

Now, as to the labor provisions of the code. While the code states that the workers have the right to organize into organizations of their own choosing, at the same time it does not provide against the company union, especially is this true in connection with the 4-Ls, which has functioned as such for a number of years now—and is controlled by the employers. Already the code states that it accepts the wage and hours proposals of the 4-Ls, as follows:

"Persons subject to the jurisdiction of this code agree to comply with the maximum hours of labor, minimum rates of pay, and other conditions of employment, approved or prescribed by the President pursuant to the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act."

Then the provisions of Article 3 establishes an Emergency National Committee.

"Said committee shall issue and enforce such rules, regulations and interpretations, including trade practices, impose upon persons subject to the jurisdiction of this code such restrictions . . . necessary to effectuate the purposes and to enforce the provisions of this code."

Further, the same Article 3 provides for the division and sub-division agencies; "who shall reserve and retain the power and duty to enforce the provisions of this code."

Many other grievances of the workers in the industry could be elaborated here, which the code does not provide against; i. e., the dog-house, or better known as the black list. The job fee system. Workers charged for hospitalization and doctors through a set fee. No pay for dead time. The gypo or contract system—and in a very few cases do the workers receive pay for overtime work.

Therefore the National Lumber Workers Industrial Union is opposed to the provisions of the code as a whole as they pertain to the workers in logging, manufacture, hours, discharges, conditions of labor, etc. The right of all workers to strike whenever any demands are not granted shall be stated in the code.

Complete liquidation of the black list system immediately.

The elimination of the hiring of workers through private employment agencies—and that the workers be hired through the lumber workers unions, or, through agencies established and controlled by workers committees where the union does not exist, and under no circumstances shall there be charged a fee for receiving employment.

WASH. INDIANS ORGANIZE FOR RELIEF FIGHT

Jobless Council Representatives Give Leadership

EVERETT, Wash., Aug. 8.—Conscious of the discrimination against them in the distribution of relief, although thousands of dollars are appropriated every year for them, Indians of the Tulalip reservation are organizing to resist the program of misery and starvation imposed on them by the bosses.

A committee of workers investigating the reported deplorable conditions on the reservation, found that they were given no relief of any kind, but were forced to work for a living cutting pulpwood. They work from daylight to dark for about 75 cents a day.

The committee called a meeting at which 14 were present, discussed their problems and general meeting of 45 of the entire reservation resulted. At the latter meeting Comrade Parks explained how white workers have kept from starving only by organizing and struggling for relief, and pointed out that only by organization could the Indians get relief.

The committee was named to go to the Indian agent and demand relief, and were informed that it would be probably two or three months before anything could be done. As a substitute he suggested they sign up for the C. C. C. camps if necessary are only to protect the billion and half invested there by American bankers, sugar and tobacco interests, and to force the Cuban people to submit to them.

Letters have been coming every day stating, "We are going to increase our bundle soon." But so far few of these phrases have been put into action. Who's going to be the first to send a substantial increase instead of promises?

One of the best ways to concretize the "Open Letter" is to increase our sales of Western Workers to the factories. In following this out don't choose too many factories, as this only leads to confusion, select one and be there one certain day a week, at a certain time, and don't whisper, "Western Worker," shout the headlines!

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Editorial Column

HOW DOES YOUR UNIT STAND?

August 1st marked the start of the Communist recruiting drive, which is to extend to November 7th, the 16th anniversary of the Soviet Union. The goal is for 2000 good standing members in the Communist Party of our district. A plan for the drive was already discussed in all units. Quotas have been set.

One of the big advantages, in our favor, is that the open letter sent by our Central Committee to the membership was received in time to help in the preparations for the drive. It was made clear that in our drive for new members, the object is not only to obtain the number of application cards, but to obtain them chiefly from workers in the most decisive industries. In California, these workers are mainly in agriculture, railroad, marine transport, oil and in the large plants. We have also learned from the discussion that the main line to be followed for achieving our goal is through concentrating our efforts on enterprises in these industries, and through leading those workers in struggles.

But, thus far, with two weeks gone, the drive is very slow in getting under way. It is evident that our Party units are still following the old practice—allowing too many decisions to remain on paper, and being too easily satisfied with small achievements.

By this time every Party organization should have established: On which factory, dock, railroad yard, ranch or mill it will devote its major strength; a weekly plan of activity for carrying through the decision; a carefully planned list of all our sympathizers and readers of our papers to be visited; a careful check of workers' organizations with the view of recruiting the most advanced into the Party.

The chief obstacle in most of the units is that they are still planning and hesitant when the work should be going on full speed. The slowness in getting started is already failure to carry out the directives in the open letter. If concentration is to be made into a reality, the major forces of the units must be immediately made active around the points selected.

The capitalist class through their government is whipping up a hysteria which is forcing developments at a rapid rate. They call their drive "the war against depression." But in practice it is for still further enslaving the workers. They are setting a rapid pace, and unless we can act just as resolutely, and with determination, events will sweep us like a fast locomotive.

That means that the worst mistake is to remain talking about our plans when the drive should be on. The workers are watching our Party activities with great interest. It is becoming more obvious every day, that the NRA is an enslaving act, and the Communists are the only ones leading a fight against it. But if we are slow, or let decisions remain on paper, the workers will not have confidence in our leadership. Our recruiting is not something apart from the struggles of the workers. Our Party can only be built out of precisely such struggles as it leads at this moment in the agricultural fields. Our leadership in these strikes is the most convincing reason to the agricultural workers for joining the Party. Provided, of course, our comrades do not hide the Party from them during the actual struggles.

Comrades! Every moment we wait is lost!
Forward with our plan of ACTION!

Meet the Demagog "Senator" Fred Robertson

By IRVING KREITZBERG

Fred Robertson, representative in the California State Legislature from the Negro district in Los Angeles, although only an assemblyman, delights in the superior title of "Senator." And it is so the white capitalist press, Negro reformist sheets (as well as his own paper), flatteringly call him "Senator" Fred Robertson, only Negro in the state legislature—the "protector" and "champion" of the Negro people of California!

Mr. Robertson is indeed a great "protector." True, he has never taken any action against the various discriminatory practices against Negroes carried on throughout the state. True, he has never fought the operation of Jim Crow public schools in Duarte and other small California towns, or the discrimination against Negro teachers, or against Negro doctors, nurses and patients in hospitals throughout the state. The discrimination shown against Negroes in swimming pools, beaches, playgrounds and other places of recreation and amusement—or even in the Stabilization Bureaus and Welfare Dept. in the distribution of relief and relief jobs to the Negro unemployed, bother him little if at all.

The "Senator" cannot be annoyed with such mere trifles. Besides, these are issues "Reds" usually make such a tumult about and no one could ever accuse good old Fred Robertson of being Red.

But how did the "Senator" earn the "protector" title?

Pressed to some show of action, Robertson introduced a bill into the legislature, which he widely proclaimed, would forever put an end to residential restrictions in California. But so valueless, so toothless, so full of jokers is the bill that it has become the subject of scornful mirth among most Negroes of this state.

In substance the farcical bill stupidly promulgates that if more Negroes than whites live in a neighborhood, then there can lawfully be no residential restrictions in that section. However, as action is needed, not where Negroes form a neighborhood majority—but in those sections from which Negroes are barred, one can little wonder at the "Bronx cheers" and horse

laughs being increasingly cast at our "hero."

As one might have already begun to suspect, the other epithet, "champion" was not acquired by converting the Assembly Hall into a rostrum from which discrimination, lynching and terror against Negroes in the United States could be exposed and flayed. Nor against the denial of suffrage to Southern Negroes, or for the immediate release of Tom Mooney and the Scottsboro boys.

Robertson has his own ideas how to champion for Negro rights.

He has recently introduced a bill into the assembly calling for the immediate deportation of all Filipinos from the United States. Aside from the fact that Filipinos are citizens and therefore not subject to deportation, Robertson subtly tries to confuse the Negroes into believing that Negro jobless will replace the deportees. This piece of demagogery becomes even more clear when we learn that there are only some 65,000 Filipinos in the entire country, while the number of unemployed Negroes run into the millions. And thus this self-styled "champion" of the down-trodden Negroes turns about and would turn discriminatory against another oppressed people, the Filipinos.

This bill, however, is not as ineffective as it sounds. Through it bitter race hatred is viciously being fostered. It is a desperate boss attempt to stifle the growing militancy and unity of Negro, Filipino, Oriental, Mexican and white American workers of California, as manifested by the recent wave of strikes in the agricultural fields and in unemployed struggles. This race dividing tactic, so similar to that used by southern bosses, is being resorted to in order to break this solidarity, and thus weaken the struggles of these workers against miserable conditions and for jobless relief.

That "Senator" Fred Robertson should have been the man to introduce this bill is no accident. A skillful demagog, the "protector" and "champion," not of the Negro—but of the bloated capitalists and parasites, a faithful lackey of the vested interests—who in California could have done the job, better than he?



S. F. Relief Administration on the Spot

By Our Special Representative

That Wollenberg, director of relief, and the city administration which backs him, are on the spot, was demonstrated at the last session of the relief hearing being conducted by the S. F. Supervisors.

So glaring were the facts proving that food given relief workers was rotten or below standard and of corruption within the relief administration, that an open hearing could not be avoided. Nevertheless, time was killed—at least two months—to give Wollenberg a chance to fix matters up.

Taking advantage of this important issue, the millionaire, Mr. Uhl, formerly defeated for mayor, and working hard for control of the city government, becomes interested in the "welfare" of the unemployed. It is his supporters who are officially bringing the charges against Wollenberg. They consist mostly of '\$40 a month men"—such as were working in the Associated Charities offices, supply dept., etc. They know a great deal. They know of the bills that come to the A. C. charging for more than was received. They know how to tell rotten canned goods, how deceitful labels are put on, how cans are re-buffed, and such other tricks as Wollenberg in connivance with the wholesalers, conceive of, so as to dump the worst into the mouths of 16,000 families on relief.

There is of course a mass of evidence to indict the administration as the worst criminals, that hundreds of workers, from various organizations are anxious to bring up. This includes poisoning, murder, evictions, cutting off relief, etc. But Uhl, controlling the prosecution, would rather place his own people on the witness stand. He is careful not to enmesh himself into "bad" company.

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"Yes."

"When were these pears canned?"

"September, 1932."

"Is it a product in accordance with the specifications set by the Bureau of Standards, and fit for human consumption?"

"Sure."

"Isn't it a fact that McCarthy and Co., whose labels are on the can, went bankrupt 12 years ago?"

"Yes, but we bought those labels from McCarthy and Co. to save money for the city." A roar of laughter from the audience. One shouts, "Yes, and you bought the cans with them."

"In other words, the label misrepresents the contents?"

"That is a usual practice in the business."

Thatcher takes a knife and starts opening the can of pears. As he digs into the tin the audience is silent. Wollenberg on the left, his eyes set on the can, seems to feel as if the knife is being dug into him. Then Thatcher takes the can and passes it among the supervisors.

"Hm!" from a supervisor, "looks like apple sauce." The others are silent.

"How do you explain this," the gentleman from Jacob & Seely is asked.

"Well, I'll tell you," he answered, in an uneasy manner, "You can never tell by one can."

Another burst of laughter from the workers, with many shouts. "Show him another one," "Show him the rotten spinach," "Show him the peas."

WOLLENBERG UNEASY

At this point, Wollenberg in a dramatic manner, walks over to the table, picks up an opener and shouts, "He has an opener right in front of him but he won't use it because he can't jar the can up with it."

This was like pouring oil on troubled waters. The only ones that at first cheered him were three truck loads of his favorites and henchmen from relief jobs, that he brought for that purpose.

The supervisors saw that things looked bad. This was only an indication of what was to follow. Their minds began to figure out for some way to shift the hearing into a small committee, or at least delay it.

As these proposals were being made, the workers in the audience responded with shouts demanding that the investigation go on, that it be not killed in a committee. The supervisors saw that they were not dealing with an ignorant lot.

Finally it was decided that the hearing go on, that additional samples be brought in from the groceria, and also that the Bureau of Standards be asked to pass upon the products.

Before leaving, together with a city clerk, to get more cans of pears, Thatcher exposed McSheehy's maneuver, pointed out that since the investigation improvements were made. The trick fell flat.

While Thatcher was out, the investigation went on.

MORE ON THE SPOT

One after the other, the wholesale company representatives are called, and shown their products. It becomes established that: Old rusty cans are rebuffed (cleaned) and relabeled; lots of swell head cans are bought from insurance companies, for sale to the Associated Charities; (cans generally swell from rotten contents, improper canning, or rust which lets air in, and often results in poisoning. Huge lots of mouldy vegetables were disposed of for the jobless. In the case of oil, a bottle was shown with a spider in it. Shortening fit for the dumps was bought. Bread was such as bakers donated free.

That would work out perfectly. The hearing will be ended right

All kinds of smaller rackets

branched out of the charity system. For instance, one that supplied the wooden boxes, was caught paying graft. On every occasion the housewives present did not miss the chance to tell the wholesale merchants what they thought of their products.

On one occasion, a former clerk from Wollenberg's apparatus, Hamerstad, occupied at least an hour revealing how the favoritism system works, the rot he received in his box and the petty graft among Wollenberg's henchmen.

One who was fired the day before from the receiving dept., for bringing evidence before the board, testified how bills from Swift and Co., Leeds Packing Co. and others always charged for more than the amount received. That Wollenberg would always disregard the corrections that he made.

At one point during the hearing, Thatcher came in with additional cans of pears. After being shaken one was opened. But they did not seem to become "apple sauce" as in the former case. It was further demonstrated that the cans first opened showed other symptoms that they were of an ancient brand.

During the hearing there was deliberate time killing. At least an hour was consumed in an effort to determine if 25 loaves of bread were being dumped daily. A long time was consumed in one case to determine if certain rotten oranges were meant for juice or eating.

Supervisors deliberately asked ridiculous questions that had no bearing on the hearing.

STALLED TO KEEP EVIDENCE OUT

The main purpose was to prevent the many workers in the chamber that were awaiting an opportunity to tell of the more basic grievances against the charity racketeers from doing so. Some were evicted. Many had their relief cut off. A representative of the Charity Workers Protective Union had a long list of families refused relief. There were the facts concerning the worker that was killed on a charity job, and similar cases. All of this evidence was even worse than that which was already introduced.

One supervisor rose and insisted that there is no use going on any further, since everything seemed along the same line. But that met with a storm of protest from the workers. "Let's go right through the night" came from many voices.

But a motion to adjourn until next Thursday was passed.

One week's time to figure out more tricks for possibly fixing matters up behind the curtains, or perhaps killing the entire investigation. But the determination of the workers who packed the chamber leaves no doubt that all and more will return next week, to bring their evidence.

To make the windup a bit dramatic, Hamerstad, a former clerk kicked out of the Wollenberg apparatus, who was probably aching to meet his former boss for a long time, met him in the antechamber after adjournment, and dealt a healthy sock on the jaw on the person of Wollenberg. The relief director only took advantage of the individual act to present himself as a martyr, declined to press charges, and ordered that Hamerstad be placed on relief.

Anyway, the hearing was plenty, without a court scene.

The city administration sees that the demand of the workers, for removal of Wollenberg, is bearing fruit. They may even carry through a demagogic gesture and kick him out. But they want to do it in a manner that will save their faces, and place the blame on the relief racketeer alone.

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LISTS FOR GREETINGS, FINANCIAS

One of the most important features in the campaign will be a drive for obtaining greetings and finances from workers, and workers organizations, expressing confidence in the vanguard in all struggles—the Communist Party. For that purpose lists are now being circulated by hundreds of comrades. All the signatures from the western districts will be printed in the special enlarged Western Worker. In giving signatures workers will contribute towards the Communist Party fund. The amounts will likewise be published.

Organizations should be asked to buy space for greetings in the Western Worker, at the rate of \$1.00 per single column inch.

The Special issue of the Western Worker will be off the press on September 5, and many interesting features are being prepared. Organizations, Party units and agents should order extra amounts for the week.

Comrades! Let us put "Party Week" across in a big way, and show to thousands of workers how the party is being hammered out of the strugles, has overcome many difficulties, and will smash down all barriers as it leads the workers to an end to capitalism.

International Events and Western Workers

500 Capitalist "Expert Advisors" At London Conference Fail To Find Solution; Workers Representative Sums Conference; Cuban People in Revolt Against Misery, and Wall St. Domination.

By the time these lines will have been published the London Economic Conference will be nothing but a bad taste in the mouth of the capitalist class. As the weeks go by evidence mounts exposing the great extent of its failure. European diplomats have frankly acknowledged that.

But from Roosevelt and Hull statements have come that the conference was not a "complete" failure. That, of course, is chiefly whistling against the wind to cover up their inability to come to any solution of the world crisis. But it also has an undercurrent of satisfaction that Roosevelt's ultimatum against currency stabilization prevented the conference from imposing any additionally unfavorable conditions upon American trade. This is a very negative "victory," and its immediate effect is to increase the danger that the imperialist powers will sooner resort to open warfare as a "solution" for their difficulties. In fact in summing up the results of the conference it is not accurate to say they are nil—they have resulted in an increased international uneasiness and a new spurt of enormous expenditures for imperialist war preparations.

How high the hope of the capitalist class was in this conference can be seen from the tremendous resources they put at its disposal. There were 500 "experts" who acted as advisors to the regular delegates, containing all the material necessary to help them make a decision.

The British government spent over \$350,000 to house the meetings and entertain the delegates.

And thereby hangs more complications. Machado, while exploiting the masses and suppressing any protest by them with the most extreme and horrible brutalities, is also maneuvering to gain concessions from Wall Street for the native bourgeoisie which he represents.

The Nationalists, who are just as reactionary as Machado,

hope to gain power by using not only the revolt of the masses for themselves but also support from American imperialism.

Wall St.'s executive committee in Washington has indicated through the State Department, that since the revolt of the workers and peasants against Machado is getting so strong they want to dispense with him and use the Nationalists or some compromise group to save and protect their holdings and exploitation rights. That suits the Nationalists fine. But Machado doesn't want to yield his own power.

And thereby hangs more complications. Machado, while exploiting the masses and suppressing any protest by them with the most extreme and horrible brutalities, is also maneuvering to gain concessions from Wall Street for the native bourgeoisie which he represents.

No one summed up the situation better than Comrade Maisky, ambassador of the first workers republic, the Soviet Union, and Litvinov's assistant in London. He addressed the conference in part as follows:

The results of this conference are something less than zero! . . .

The only lesson we have learned is that a profound organic disease is eating away at the very vital parts of world capitalism. . . . He who does not realize this, or who attempts to deny it, lives in a fool's paradise. . . . In